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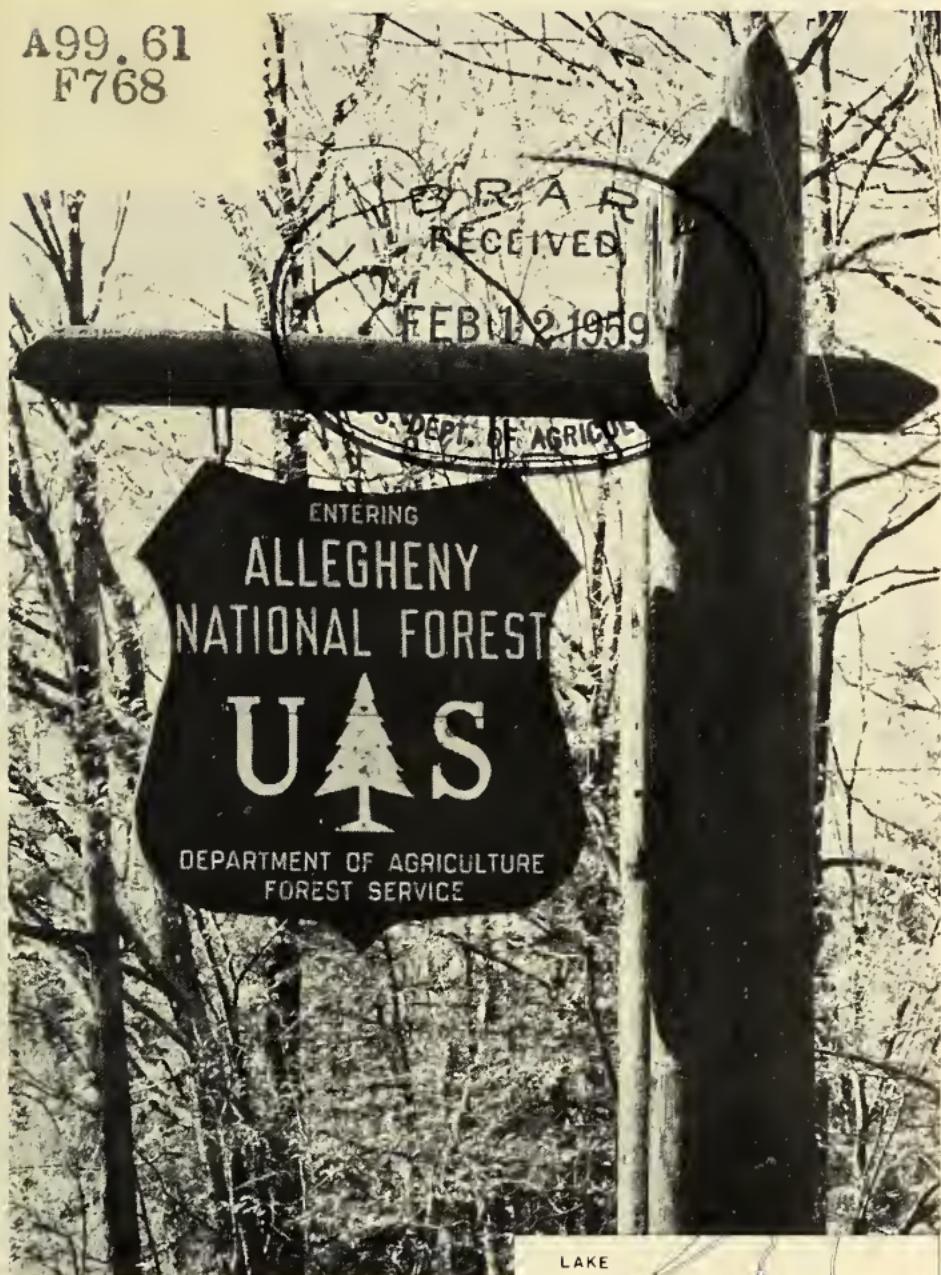
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ALLEGHENY

NATIONAL FOREST

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of
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Allegheny National Forest



ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST lies on the Allegheny Plateau, wholly within the drainage of the upper Allegheny River. Originally, this area was covered with a dense forest of white pine, northern hardwoods, and hemlock, which was the basic resource that first brought white men to the area in appreciable numbers. The first trees to be harvested were hemlocks, which provided bark for the tanneries that were established throughout the area. The hemlock enters wanted bark only; the logs were left lying in the woods. Other lumbermen came to harvest the vast stands of magnificent white pine, a choice framing and construction wood, most of which was floated in giant rafts down the Allegheny River to the Pittsburgh and Ohio markets. Hardwoods were first cut for nearby chemical plants and, later, found as cabinet wood in the manufacture of quality furniture.

Less than 15 miles from the western boundary of Allegheny National Forest, near Titusville, Pa., "Colonel" E. L. Drake, pioneer oil speculator, successfully drilled the first commercial oil well. Oil speculation followed immediately, and petroleum and gas operations mushroomed in the area. This stampede exploited the oil and gas that lay under the same land being exploited for its timber. This second exploitation sealed the fate of the virgin forest.

As soon as all the easily accessible lumber had been cut, the sawmills closed down, and the lumber companies moved westward to fresher and still uncut timberlands. They left on Pennsylvania's Allegheny Plateau hundreds of thousands of acres of ruinously burned-over, cut-over, and nonproductive forest, with a few scattered patches of healthy woodlands.

About this time, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania petitioned the Federal Government to establish a national forest in the State. On September 24, 1923, President Coolidge, under authorization provided by the Weeks law, signed the proclamation establishing Allegheny National Forest—the land being about equally distributed between Warren, McKean, Forest, and Elk Counties. The forest en-

compassed an area of about 740,000 acres, nearly 500,000 of which were purchased for administration by the Forest Service.

Legislation establishing Allegheny National Forest came too late to preserve the original virgin stand of timber. However, the Weeks law authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire land for the purpose of protecting watersheds of navigable streams. A major objective of the Allegheny today is to provide for watershed protection to insure a supply of water for nearby cities and the surrounding area, even extending as far south as Pittsburgh.

Watershed protection is only one of the basic functions of the Allegheny National Forest. In accord with fundamental U. S. Forest Service concepts, the guiding principles of administration provide for multiple-purpose use of natural resources—watershed protection, timber utilization, recreation, wildlife management, and special uses. The importance of Allegheny National Forest as a recreation area is emphasized in the fact that the 1950 population census counted more than 47,000,000 people living within 300 airline miles—a day's drive by car—of the forest. Recreation planning is based upon the creed of Forest Service planning and administration, "The National Forest will be administered for the greatest good of the greatest number of people in the long run."

The administration of Allegheny National Forest is under the direction of a forest supervisor, whose office is located in the Post Office Building, Warren, Pa. The forest is divided into four ranger districts, each of which is under a District Ranger, who has responsibility for multiple-use activities on his district. This decentralization provides better service to the public, because each ranger becomes thoroughly familiar with his specific area and its problems.

To handle the complexities of forest management, the Forest Supervisor and the District Rangers require the services of engineers, technical foresters, forest fire-control assistants, and skilled and semi-skilled workers.

[1]



Research

Forest research at the Allegheny Plateau Research Center started in 1927. For the most part, the work undertaken has been concentrated on the Kane Experimental Forest, established on the Allegheny National Forest in 1932. Research at the Center serves 15.6 million acres in New York and Pennsylvania.

The Allegheny Plateau is a dissected upland, sloping downward to the Erie and Ontario lake plains and to the central lowland of New York. Forty-six percent of the area (more than 7 million acres) is forest land, and 54 percent (8½ million acres) is used for agriculture. Allegheny hardwoods-hemlock is the most important type on 3 million acres, and oak mixtures cover 2½ million acres. About 80 percent of the commercial forest land is privately owned, and public agencies (chiefly State) own the remainder.

Forest management and silviculture have been given major emphasis in the research program. Studies include methods of harvest cutting, stand

improvement, and stand rehabilitation by planting. Climatic records, soil studies, and observations on tree reaction to environmental factors have also been included. The effects of forest fire, insects, disease, gale storms, windthrow, drought, and animals (such as deer and rabbits) have been the subject of exhaustive studies.

Methods of stand improvement by weeding, thinning, sanitation, salvage cutting, and artificial planting have been studied. In cooperation with the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, geographic-climatic strains of red pine are being tested. Some work has been done on the costs of converting cordwood for chemical distillation and pulp. Volume tables have been prepared, and cordwood-cubic-foot converting factors have been developed for use by public and private agencies.

Future studies include water-resource management, regeneration of black cherry, financial aspects of forest management, and methods of forest management by perpetual-inventory techniques. Guides to multiple-use planning of forest resources are one of the goals of further research.

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there are several localities throughout the forest where the Forest Supervisor, upon a District Ranger's recommendation, may issue permits for the construction of summer homes or hunting camps. Applications should be made to the nearest District Ranger.

Quite logically, many organizations that sponsor outdoor activities look to the Allegheny National Forest as a site for carrying out their recreational programs. Such use is permitted and encouraged under regular Forest Service permit.

Recreation areas on the Allegheny National Forest are located as follows:

Twin Lakes: A camping and picnicking area 7 miles south of Kane. It includes a lake and bathing beach. (Operated by a concessionaire.)

Loletu: A camping and picnicking area 6 miles southeast of Marienville. Two dams in a creek form a pool, 100 by 200 feet. (Operated by a concessionaire.)

Kelly Pines: A delightful small area 6 miles east of Marienville. (Free camping and picnicking.)

Hearts Content: A small area adjacent to the famous stand of virgin timber, known by the same name, 15 miles south of Warren. (Free camping and picnicking.)

Allegheny: Located 5 miles northeast of Warren on State Highway 59. (Free camping and picnicking.)

Sandstone Springs: Located 12 miles south of Warren. (Free picnicking.)

Kennedy Springs: About 8 miles south of Bradford on US 219. (Free picnicking.)

Morrison Run: A small, but very popular, picnic area 2 miles east of Warren. (Free picnicking.)

Buckaloons (Seneca Indian name for Broken-straw): Provides camping, picnicking, and a boat-launching site. Located on the Allegheny River south of US 6 and west of US 62 at the mouth of Irvine Run.

Minister Creek: Located 15 miles southwest of Sheffield. (Free camping and picnicking.)

Bearer Meadows: (Now in process of development.) Located 5 miles north of Marienville. A 27-acre lake provides boating and fishing. Free camping and picnicking. A boat-launching site is planned but customers should bring their own boats. (Lake not suitable for swimming.)

With the exception of Minister Creek, tables, fireplaces, toilets, storm shelters, firewood, and drinking water are available at all the areas mentioned above. The normal season of use extends from June 15 to September 15.

The Tionesta Natural and Scenic Areas: This 4,080-acre tract of magnificent virgin hardwood and hemlock woodland is located near the center of the forest. Slightly more than half of it (known as the Natural Area) has been carefully surveyed, and data are continually being collected by personnel of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station and by visiting scientists to add to our knowledge of basic forest biology. The remainder, located in the northern part of the area, is for public use and enjoyment. It is known as the Scenic Area and can be reached by a forest road running south from Ludlow, or west from Kane. However, the virgin woods of Tionesta and of Hearts Content are not available for camping.

Hearts Content: A 120-acre primeval forest, 15 miles south of Warren. Originally, it consisted of 20 acres of undisturbed forest, given to the Forest Service by the Wheeler & Dinsbury Lumber Co. Enlarged by a gift of land from the Federated Women's Clubs of Pennsylvania as well as by a Fed-

eral Government purchase, Hearts Content has become an enduring heritage.

Camp Complanter: Located near the mouth of Mud Lick Run, and about midway between Kane and Kinzua. For the past few years, this area has been used by youth organizations for summer recreation.

Boy Scouts Camp (Camp Tionesta): Located on the shores of Lake Tionesta. The camp was constructed by the Allegheny Council of the Boy Scouts of America (Pittsburgh area).

Girl Scouts Camp (Camp Birdsell Edge): Located at the mouth of Grindev Run, a few miles west of Warren, Pa. This camp is operated by the Warren Forest Council of the Girl Scouts.

Penn State Forestry Camp: Camp Blue Jay is located about 6 miles north of Macieville, Pa. It is the summer camp for students in the Penn State School of Forestry, Pennsylvania State University.

A network of more than 167 miles of trails intersects the entire area of the Allegheny National Forest.



Recreation

Numerous areas for camping or picnicking are provided on the forest. However, to preserve an authentic rustic forest environment, only such facilities as necessary for public use, enjoyment, health, and safety have been installed. On heavily used areas, operations have been turned over to a concessionaire, who is permitted to collect a small fee for the services he renders to the public.

Recreation on the national forests is administered with the least possible restriction in keeping with the safety of the public and the protection of the forest. As is true on all national forests, practically the entire area of the Allegheny National Forest is open for picnicking, camping, and other recreational use by the public. However, during periods of extreme fire hazard it may be necessary, by either Federal or State regulation, to close all the forest. At all times, unless the camping and picnicking are at one of the specially improved areas, a campfire permit is necessary. The permits are issued without cost at the Forest Supervisor's office at Warren, or by District Rangers at Sheffield, Marienville, Bradford, and Ridgway.

In addition to growing timber and other forest products and serving in water control, the Allegheny National Forest is used for hunting and fishing and other types of outdoor recreation. For example,

Watershed Value

Of all the products of the forest, water is the one most nearly indispensable to human life. Therefore, in making daily decisions that concern the management of natural resources on the Allegheny National Forest, the Forest Service officers must consider the effect contemplated action might have upon the forest watersheds.

Good management of forested lands can do much to assist in regulating streamflow and water quality.



Proper management practices will result in the creation and maintenance of soil and vegetative cover conditions favorable to infiltration of water into the soil; it will retard snowmelt, thus prolonging streamflow; and it will permit a higher rate of groundwater accumulation.

Because the land within the present forest boundaries formed key watersheds of the frequently flood-prone Allegheny and upper Ohio Rivers, the Allegheny National Forest was established to insure protection through the years. Flood control is still vitally important to downstream inhabitants of farms, villages, and cities.

At the present time, rapidly expanding populations and industrial growth create an ever-increasing demand for a year-long supply of water for domestic use and industry. For this reason, the flowing springs and streams from the watersheds of the Allegheny National Forest daily become more important.

Receipts

The land within Allegheny National Forest is publicly owned; therefore, no taxes are paid to the local governmental units within which the national forest is located. However, taxes are paid by the owners of the subsurface resources, and most of the improvements built under permit on Government land are also subject to local taxation.

To compensate local governmental units for a loss of taxation, an act of Congress passed in 1908 provides that 25 percent of gross receipts from national-forest land shall be paid to the State for use in the counties and townships in which the forest is located. This money is earmarked for schools and for road construction and maintenance. An additional 10 percent is set aside to be spent by the Forest Service on public-service roads and trails within the area where the receipts were collected.

Subsurface Resources.—The success of the first oil wells led to a legal separation of the subsurface values from those on top of the ground. As a result, landowners, if they did not go into the oil business themselves, sold their oil, gas, and mineral rights to oil operators. This, in turn, led to a unique pattern of dual ownership—the top of the ground belonging to one individual or company, and the oil, gas, and minerals belonging to someone else. This pattern of dual ownership was well set when the land-purchase program establishing the Allegheny National Forest got underway, and because the objectives of national-forest administration were concerned with surface resources and surface values, land for the national forest usually was purchased with the subsurface rights remaining in private ownership.



Forest Fire

The most spectacular, and often the major, scourge of all woodlands is wildfire. Fire in the woods not only destroys the standing trees, with a tremendous monetary loss, but often sterilizes the soil so that it is virtually impossible for anything to replace the burned growth. And, frequently, where there is regrowth, the trees and shrubs that replace the burned-out forest are of little value except as ground cover.

Loss of trees is only one of the disastrous results of forest fires. Sometimes there is property damage. And, almost always, the shelter and the food supply of the creatures of the woods are destroyed; frequently, the animals themselves perish. Often, too, streams flowing from burned-off areas become so laden with alkali that fish and other aquatic life are killed, or are forced to abandon such waters.

Usually, the greatest harm from forest fire is the damage done to watersheds. Time after time, disastrous floods follow forest fires. It is well to re-

member that forest fires trigger the following chain reactions: Fire destroys vegetation and humus (which formerly retained moisture); lack of vegetation and humus leads to flash floods and periodic high waters; these floods and high waters result in the loss of a sustained water supply to vital industrial or farming areas.

Records of forest fires on Allegheny National Forest show that the three main causes of fire are MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN. Obviously, most of these fires are caused by carelessness and thoughtlessness. To combat this yearly waste, Allegheny National Forest and the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters cooperate in the prevention and control of forest fires. On Allegheny National Forest, there are nine fire-lookout towers. Some are manned by the State Forest Service and some by the U. S. Forest Service.

REMEMBER—ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES. It is much cheaper and easier to prevent fires than to put them out.



Timber Management

Timber is a crop! It matures much more slowly than field crops but is subject to much the same basic husbandry. Nature sows when circumstances are favorable; man or machine does the work when circumstances are not favorable. Similarly also, weeding, thinning, and elimination of the least desirable strains and individuals must be undertaken if the fullest potential forest crop is to be harvested. Finally, there is the harvest—a selection of the right stems at the time of harvest.

On Allegheny National Forest, the lumber and products of more than 20 species of trees are sold to industrial markets. It is possible to establish a succession of growth with most of these species so as mature trees are harvested, younger trees replace them. In time, these replacements also become available for marketing.

Scientific management of Allegheny National Forest demonstrates that, when forests are properly managed, a succession of desirable trees can be grown by inexpensive natural reproduction, thus providing



Wildlife

Allegheny National Forest offers some of the finest hunting and fishing in the United States. The wild animal population of the forest is large and varied. It includes white-tailed deer, black bear, fox, raccoon, weasel, muskrat, beaver, porcupine, rabbit, squirrel, and many other small animals. In a recent survey, a total of 29 species of mammals was noted. In addition to grouse, turkey, and woodcock, 64 varieties of birds have been found nesting on the forest. There are trout and numerous kinds of warm-water fish in 525 miles of forest streams. Reptiles, except for garter snakes, are not common.

The Forest Service recognizes that all wild creatures are interrelated products of the land—its soil, water, and vegetation. The wildlife-management objective of the national forests is to maintain and improve habitat so that all visitors, including sportsmen, will have an opportunity to observe, study, and otherwise enjoy forest wildlife. However, public interest in the forest's wildlife resources is directed primarily toward maintenance of species desirable for hunting and fishing. Normally, the entire area of Allegheny National Forest is open to public hunting and fishing. State fish and game laws apply on the forest, and the only permits required are the State fishing and hunting licenses.

In addition to its responsibility for furnishing a suitable habitat for wildlife, the Forest Service shares the responsibility for encouraging a full and varied use of this national-forest resource. However, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission are primarily responsible for the protection of the wildlife and fish resources and for the promulgation and enforcement of the rules and regulations governing game and fish protection and utilization.

In recognition of this dual responsibility in the important and complex field of wildlife management, the Forest Service and the State Game and Fish Commissions cooperate in planning and carrying out the steps necessary for a full realization of the wildlife potential of the forest.

The most effective work for improvement of wildlife habitat is done during normal timber harvesting and in routine resource-utilization and administrative activities. In other words, it is the policy of the Forest Service to plan a well-integrated work program, which will serve a dual purpose—attain the desired work objective, and, at the same time, improve or create needed wildlife habitat. However, in addition to dual-purpose programs, there are many projects for direct habitat improvement necessary for the survival and benefit of the large wildlife population in the forest. State Game and Fish

Commission personnel manage these specific projects after the work has been jointly planned by both State and Federal officials.

Pointing up the widespread recognition by sportsmen of the importance of Allegheny National Forest as a hunter's paradise, the two most famous gundog trial areas in the United States are located in this forest. Every third year, the best gundogs in the United States are brought here to compete for the Grand National Championship.





**I will be
careful...**

with matches
with smokes
with campfires
with any fire

*Remember -
only you can*

**PREVENT
FOREST FIRES !**